



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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### Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Sibongile Magubane

Transportation Committee Public Hearing  
January 27, 2021

### Senate Bill 261 – An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles

Good morning Chairmen Cassano and Lemar, Ranking Members Somers and Carney and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 261 – An Act Concerning the Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Every year the Department of Motor Vehicles submits a proposal to the Transportation Committee to ensure compliance with federal requirements, make technical changes to statutes and streamline processes. This proposal contains language originally submitted in our 2020 legislative package.

During the pandemic the DMV deployed new processes and technology to enable the agency to deliver critical services to customers in a safe manner. Customer convenience continues to be the main focus. Therefore, rolling back the changes implemented during Covid would have a devastating impact on our ability to service Connecticut businesses and residents.

#### **Summary of previously proposed changes:**

Section 1 amends 1-1h Extends the revocation process for credentials obtained with fraudulent documents to non-driver IDs.

Section 5 amends 14-21z Allows DMV to recoup the cost associated with producing, issuing and renewing the "Save the Lakes" plate. This is standard language that was omitted when passed in 2018

Section 6 amends 14-21aa Clarifies that the authority to accept private donations and to reproduce and market the Save Our Lakes commemorative number plate image "for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs rests with the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Section 7 amends 14-25 Allows the DMV to issue a one-year Student Transportation Vehicle combination registration. Currently, the statute prorates the fee in accordance with a passenger

registration, but STVs are mixed use and current practice is to issue them combination registrations.

Section 8 amends 14-29 Reconciles state and federal law with respect to minimum insurance limits for commercial passenger carrying vehicles. This change would clarify which vehicles are subject to the federal insurance limits of \$1.5 and \$5 million; eliminate split limits, and require a single limit, similar to the federal regulations and raise the insurance limits for commercial passenger carrying vehicles not subject to federal limits to \$500,000 for 7 or fewer and \$750,000 for 8-14 passengers.

Section 10 amends 14-36d Allows DMV to provide online license renewals and the flexibility to leverage technological advances. This change will also limit online renewals to persons with an acceptable image on file and whose last renewal was completed in-person.

Section 13 amends 14-41 (b) Removes the requirement for transactions to be conducted at the “office or facility” of our partner locations and provides flexibility for which transactions can be performed.

Section 14 amends 14-44c Adds a provision to require DMV to check a centralized database established in federal regulations before it issues, renews, transfers or upgrades a CDL beginning in 2023. The database is the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, and it is a repository through which an employer reports the positive drug and alcohol tests of its employees who drive with a CDL. States will be required to begin using this system effective January 2023.

Sections 15 & 16 amends 14-44e(g) and 14-44i(b) Currently DMV issues a commercial learner’s permit for a 6-month duration with one renewal for 6 months, for a total of one year. This revision authorizes the issuance of the permit for one year and adjusts the fee accordingly. This change reduces a CLP holder’s trips to the DMV.

Section 17 amends 14-44k(g) Adds the offense of trafficking in persons to the offenses that result in a lifetime disqualification of a CDL with no possibility for restoration. Federal regulation requires states to adopt this language for CDL holders.

Section 19 amends 14-49(e) Provides the option to a person over age 65 to obtain a one-year renewal of a combination registration on a passenger motor vehicle that he or she owns. This is already available to seniors with passenger plates. (Passenger plates cannot be used on pickup trucks between 8,501 and 12,500 pounds).

Section 20 amends 14-50b Authorizes the DMV to charge a fee as a condition of obtaining a new non-driver ID if an ID was previously revoked, similar to a driver’s license revocation.

Section 22 amends 14-52a Requires DMV to refuse issuance or renew a dealer’s license to anyone who owes sales tax to the state from a current or previous business. This amendment limits the prohibition to used car dealers only.

Section 32 amends 15-144 Authorizes marine dealers to issue permanent boat registrations and decals. Currently they may only issue temporary registrations, requiring the customer to come to DMV for a permanent registration.

Section 36 amends 14-163f Repeals this section because it is obsolete. The underlying program to which it applies is no longer in effect.

### **Covid Related Proposals:**

Section 2 amends 14-11c Technical change to conform the agency names of DESPP and DEEP

Section 3 amends 14-15d Authorizes the Commissioner to charge a \$25 fee per registration to any lien and titling service that fails or refuses to comply with the statutory requirement to conduct business online when that service registers seven or more vehicles per month.

Section 4 amends 14-16 Lengthens, from sixty (60) to one-hundred twenty (120) days, the period of time a beneficiary designated on a registration certificate has to transfer the vehicle after the death of the owner.

Section 9 amends 14-36 Lengthens the period of time from thirty (30) to sixty (60) days that a person has to obtain a license in CT after moving here; allows for more flexibility for the electronic submission of applications; authorizes the commissioner to waive the CDL knowledge tests for persons who operate commercial vehicles in the military (as is currently done with the skills test).

Section 11 amends 14-36e Includes distance learning in the term “classroom instruction” as used in the statute relating to driver’s education in secondary schools.

Section 12 amends 14-36f Includes distance learning in the term “classroom instruction” in driving school regulations governing secondary schools.

Section 25 14-78 Includes distance learning in the term “classroom instruction” in regulations governing commercial driving schools.

Section 26 amends 14-111g Includes distance learning for operator retraining classes in statute and regulations.

Section 30 amends 14-276a(a) Includes distance learning in the term “classroom instruction” in regulations governing the training of school bus and student transportation vehicle drivers.

Section 31 amends 14-276a(c) Authorizes the classroom instruction portion of a safety training course that is given by a school district or town to school bus and student transportation vehicle operators to be given in person in a congregate setting, through distance learning or a combination of the two.

Section 35 amends 14-12 Lengthens the period of time from sixty (60) to ninety (90) days that a person has to register a vehicle in CT after moving here and authorizes dealers to do “casual” registration issuance and renewal for customers who have not purchased a vehicle from the dealer. Dealers already have the system in place for vehicles they sell, so this will have no cost or impact upon agency.

### **New Proposals:**

Section 18 amends 14-45a Changes current language that requires driver testing for someone who has not operated a motor vehicle in 2 years to someone whose license expired more than 2 years ago.

Section 21 amends 14-52 Eliminates option to deposit cash with DMV as a condition of obtaining a dealer license; Applicant must submit a surety bond.

Section 22 amends 14-52a Allows the commissioner to consider whether the applicant for a dealer license has civil judgments (in addition to criminal convictions) prior to granting a license and requires a licensee to disclose civil judgments upon renewal.

Section 23 amends 14-62 Adds a requirement that on a retail purchase order for a motor vehicle, that the dealer must refund a deposit if the dealer does not provide written proof of approved financing to the buyer prior to execution of the purchase order.

Section 24 amends 14-69 Eliminates option to deposit cash with DMV as a condition of obtaining a driving school licensee; Applicant must submit a surety bond.

Sections 27 & 28 amends 14-164c Clarifies that a vehicle must pass an emissions test when it is being sold by a licensed motor vehicle dealer, even if the vehicle is being registered outside of CT and gives the commissioner discretion, in circumstances where the DMV or retail stations are closed, to extend the time in which a new vehicle owner is required have an emissions inspection upon transfer.

Section 29 amends 14-227b Amends the term “motor vehicle” in the administrative per se statute so that it includes a snowmobile or an ATV, making it consistent with 14-227a, the criminal DUI statute.

Section 33 & 34 amends 14-96q(h) and 14-283 Extends the definition of emergency vehicles to include certain first response vehicles operated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, enabling them to use emergency lights and sirens while responding to an emergency.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 261. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this proposal.